

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 97,008-W)

In re Application of:)
)
COPELAND, et. al)
) Group Art Unit: 1743
Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
) Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: August 16, 2001)
)
For: Automated Biological)
Reaction Apparatus)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A marked up version of the amended portion of the specification, to show all the changes, is attached hereto on pages separate from the amendment in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Please delete lines 3-5 at page 1 and insert the following therefor:

This is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/452,309, filed on December 1, 1999, ^{U.S. PAT. NO.} pending, ~~4,352,966~~
which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/906,678, filed August 5, 1997, abandoned, which is a
continuation of application Serial No. 08/479,415, filed June 6, 1995, U.S. Patent No. 5,654,200, which is
~~08/352,966~~
~~07/924,052~~
a division of application Serial No. ~~08/352,966~~, filed December 9, 1994, U.S. Patent No. 5,595,707, which is
~~07/488,601~~
a continuation of application Serial No. ~~08/352,966~~, filed August 31, 1992, abandoned, which is a
continuation-in-part of application Serial No. ~~08/352,966~~, filed March 2, 1990, abandoned.

At page 41, lines 3-8, please amend the text as follows:

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Fig. 17 is a top schematic view of the vortex mixing zone, showing details of the vortex mixing action.

Figs. 18^a and 18^b schematic representational cross-sectional view of a slide following the rinse liquid, evaporation inhibitor and reagent application steps.

Figs. 19A-19B are cross-sectional views of respective
20 alternative embodiments of a rinse liquid container and
associated heating components.

Fig. 20A is a bottom, isometric view of one embodiment of a reagent container support tray.

Fig. 21 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken